

REMARKS

In an effort to materially advance prosecution, Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claim 15 and 21 into claim 11. Thus, no new issues are thereby raised since these limitations have long been in the claims. Claims 15, 21 and 35 have been cancelled. Applicant hereby
5 requests reconsideration.

The undersigned attorney called Examiner Woodall on 26 June 2008, requesting (by voice mail message) a telephone interview by 30 June 2008. No return call has been received.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) – Olson in view of Guedj

10 Claims 11-34 have been rejected as obvious over this combination of references. Applicant confirms his traversal of this ground of rejection.

The Examiner has included a copy of FIG. 3 of Olson, with a direction of rotation arrow. Applicant concurs with this representation. However, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's statement in the Response to Arguments on page 6 of the Action, viz., "If the device is rotated
15 from left to right, as per a typical right handed thread, when viewed from the bottom the slot walls slope forwardly in the direction of the rotation." This is simply not true from the figure shown and there is nothing in the text of Olson that would confirm the Examiner's understanding.

When viewed from the bottom (FIG. 3) the rotation is counter-clockwise, that is, from
20 right to left. The center of the screw is located just to the right of the line representing the trailing wall or possibly exactly on the trailing wall. This means that in the view of this figure, or in any arbitrary section, the trailing wall slopes obliquely rearwardly from within and outwardly, or possibly forms a zero-angle. It is undisputable that the claim 1 language, "from within and outwardly," relates to the radial direction. Thereby the trailing wall of Olson forms an angle
25 with the periphery that is either slightly obtuse or possibly 90°. The effect described on page 3, lines 1-7 of the present application thereby is not achieved by Olson. The slot of Olson slopes obliquely in the axial direction which, however, does not correspond to the structural limitation of claim 11.

Guedj does not address any aspect of the slot angle arrangement defined by claim 11 so
30 it does nothing to fill in or suggest that which is missing in Olson.

Applicant has only added the limitations of claims 15 and 21 to claim 11 to accentuate the differences from Olson.

Claims 12-14, 16-20, and 22-34 all depend from claim 11 and are believed to be free of the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as is claim 11.

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The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) – Brånomark in view of Sparks (sic)

Claims 1 and 35 have been rejected as obvious over this new combination of references. Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection of claim 1 (claim 35 has been cancelled).

10 There is nothing in Brånomark which addresses the structure defined by claim 11 and discussed above with respect to the Olson reference. Further, Sparks only shows a self-tapping wood screw with a helical thread overlayed by a spiral flute or flutes. Applicant disputes the combination, as being wholly unrelated. However, even if these disparate teachings were combined, the result is fatally short of making claim 11 obvious. Applicant incorporates here the
15 arguments set forth above with respect to Olson and does not feel they need to be reiterated for this combination of references.

CONCLUSION

The cited and applied references fall short of suggesting Applicant's claim 1, as
20 amended. They provide no sustainable basis for rejection of claim 11 and those depending therefrom. It is believed that all the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, and early indication of allowance is requested. Should any issues remain unresolved, Examiner Woodall is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,
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